



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PRODUCTION – SEPTEMBER 2020

MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on September 1 conditions, **sugarbeet** production in Montana is forecast at 1.42 million tons, according to the September 1 Agricultural Yield Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is up 23 percent from the 1.15 million tons produced in 2019. Growers expect to harvest 42,600 acres this year compared with 36,500 acres a year ago. Yields are expected to average 33.3 tons per acre, up 0.8 ton per acre from the August 1 forecast and up from last year's yield of 31.6 tons per acre. As of August 30, Montana's sugarbeet crop condition was rated 20 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

Chickpea production for 2020 is forecast at 1.29 million hundredweight, down 49 percent from the 2.51 million hundredweight produced a year earlier. Yields are expected to average 1,300 pounds per acre, down 100 pounds per acre from last year. Growers expect to harvest 99,200 acres from 102,000 acres planted this year, compared with 179,000 acres harvested from 199,000 acres planted last year. As of August 30, Montana's dry bean harvest (including Chickpeas) was 54 percent complete, compared with 27 percent last year and the five-year average of 64 percent.

Lentil production for 2020 is estimated to be 4.68 million hundredweight, up 42 percent from last year. Area harvested is forecast at 334,000 acres, up from 255,000 acres harvested in 2019. Yield is estimated to be 1,400 pounds per acre, up 110 pounds per acre from last year. As of August 30, 89 percent of lentils had been harvested, compared with 69 percent last year.

Montana **dry edible pea** production, forecast at 8.12 million hundredweight, is down 20 percent from last year. Acres harvested are estimated at 451,000, down 10 percent from 2019. Yield is expected to be 1,800 pounds per acre, down 230 pounds per acre from last year. As of August 30, 92 percent of dry edible peas had been harvested, compared with 80 percent last year and the five-year average of 92 percent.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of **sugarbeets** for the 2020 crop year is forecast at 35.1 million tons, down 1 percent from last month but up 23 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 31.2 tons per acre, a decrease of 0.2 ton from the previous forecast but up 2.0 tons from last year.

Production of **all chickpeas** is forecast at 3.89 million cwt, down 38 percent from 2019. Area planted for all chickpeas for the 2020 crop year is estimated at 254,000 acres, down 44 percent from the previous year. Area harvested for all chickpeas is forecast at 249,200 acres, 38 percent below 2019. **Small chickpea** area planted is estimated at 40,000 acres, down 62 percent from 2019. Area harvested for small chickpeas is forecast at 38,800 acres, a 58 percent decline from 2019. Area planted for **large chickpeas** in 2020 is estimated at 214,000 acres, a 38 percent decline from the previous year. Large chickpea area harvested is forecast at 210,400 acres, a 32 percent decline from 2019.

Production of **lentils** is forecast at 6.50 million cwt, up 21 percent from a year ago. Planted area, at 518,000 acres, is up 7 percent from last year, while harvested area, at 486,000 acres, is up 13 percent from 2019. The average yield is expected to be 1,338 pounds per acre, up 88 pounds from last year.

Production of **dry edible peas** is forecast at 18.5 million cwt, down 17 percent from last year. Area planted is estimated at 999,000 acres, up 5 percent from June but down 9 percent from 2019. Area harvested is forecast at 949,000 acres, up 5 percent from the June forecast but down 10 percent from 2019. The average United States yield is expected to be 1,953 pounds per acre, down 171 pounds from 2019.

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